over a span of 6-7 years with financial assistance to the extent of Rs.1358.62 crores.

Coffee plantation in Andhra Pradesh

1703. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coffee plantation in Andhra Pradesh is giving excellent results, besides providing employment to local tribal communities of the Eastern Ghats;

(b) whether it is a fact that presently in more than 5,00 hectares of forest land there is coffee plantation in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether any proposal by the Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation has been submitted to the Ministry for expansion of coffee plantation in the same zones since the climate and other conditions are suitable for coffee cultivation; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not allowing the APFDC for expansion of coffee plantations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRJ JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Ban on import of rice, ground-nuts and oil seeds by Russia

†1704. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia has imposed a ban on import of rice, ground-nuts and oil seeds since 1st May, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what action is being taken by the Government against those traders who have not complied with the quality control norms in export and have tarnished the image of the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ban had been imposed with effect from 1st June, 2007 on the ground of (a) detection of impermissible levels of pesticides in rice (b) grain pests

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.